

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings and versions of claims in this application. Please amend claims 1, 2, 40, 44, 48, 49, 52, 56, 57, 84, 86, 88, 91, and 92; cancel claims 54 and 55; and add new claims 95-100, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A medical device comprising:

a handle;

an end effector assembly; and

an elongate, flexible member connecting the handle to the end effector assembly,

wherein the handle includes an elongate portion and a spool portion disposed around the elongate portion, wherein the spool portion includes a proximal portion and a distal portion connected by a central portion, wherein a plurality of grooves are defined by the proximal portion and another plurality of grooves are defined by the distal portion, ~~wherein the plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with the another plurality of grooves,~~ and at least one groove accommodates a portion of the end effector assembly, the spool portion being configured to actuate the end effector assembly when the end effector assembly is in a body of a patient and the spool portion is outside the body of the patient.

2. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is configured to receive at least one half of a cross-section diameter of the elongate member.

3. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein a width of the at least one groove is substantially the same as a diameter of the elongate member.
4. - 6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the proximal portion.
8. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the distal portion.
9. - 12. (Canceled)
13. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove extends through the proximal portion, the central portion, and the distal portion.
14. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 13, wherein a portion of the at least one groove is wider than the rest of the at least one groove.
15. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is configured to accommodate more than one portion of the elongate member.
16. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove comprises at least two grooves.

17. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 16, wherein one of the at least two grooves is configured to accommodate more than one portion of the elongate member and the other of the at least two grooves is configured to accommodate one portion of the elongate member.
18. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the handle further comprises a channel.
19. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 18, wherein the channel is defined by the spool portion of the handle.
20. (Canceled)
21. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the channel is defined by the distal portion.
22. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 21, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the proximal portion, and
wherein a circumferential position of the at least one groove on the proximal portion is aligned with a circumferential position of the channel on the distal portion.
23. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the proximal portion and the central portion.

24. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the handle further comprises a notch.
25. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 24, wherein the notch is defined by the spool portion of the handle.
26. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 25, wherein the notch is defined by the distal portion.
27. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 26, wherein the at least one groove is on the proximal portion, and
wherein the at least one groove and the notch are on corresponding portions of the proximal portion and the distal portion, respectively.
28. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is configured to receive a loop of the elongate member.
29. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is configured to receive loops of the elongate member.
30. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove includes a radial groove and a circumferential groove.

31. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 30, wherein the radial groove and circumferential groove are connected.
32. (Canceled)
33. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising a throughhole on the spool portion configured to accommodate the elongate portion therethrough.
34. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising a throughhole extending through the proximal portion, central portion, and distal portion.
35. (Canceled)
36. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the end effector assembly is a pair of opposing biopsy forceps jaws.
37. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the central portion.
38. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the portion of the handle that defines the at least one groove is composed of a material configured to assist in retaining the portion of the end effector assembly.

39. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 24, wherein the portion of the handle that comprises the notch is composed of a material configured to assist in retaining the end effector of the end effector assembly.

40. (Currently Amended) A medical device comprising:

a handle;

an end effector assembly; and

an elongate, flexible member connecting the handle to the end effector assembly,

wherein the handle includes an elongate portion and a spool portion disposed around the elongate portion, wherein the spool portion includes a proximal portion and a distal portion connected by a central portion, wherein a plurality of grooves are defined by the proximal portion and another plurality of grooves are defined by the distal portion, wherein the plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with the another plurality of grooves, and a portion plurality of loops of the elongate member ~~and a portion of the end effector assembly~~ is disposed in ~~at least one~~ a groove defined by the handle.

41. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein a plurality of portions of the elongate member are disposed in the plurality of grooves.

42. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a channel.

43. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a notch.

44. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 40, wherein a plurality of portions of the elongate member are disposed in the ~~at least one~~ groove.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a channel defined by the spool portion.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 40, wherein the ~~at least one~~ groove is defined by the proximal portion.

49. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 40, wherein the ~~at least one~~ groove is defined by the distal portion.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein one portion of the elongate, flexible member is disposed in one of the plurality of grooves and another

portion of the elongate, flexible member is disposed in one of the another plurality of grooves.

52. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 40, wherein the a portion of the end effector assembly is disposed in a another groove defined by the proximal portion and the central portion.

53 - 55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 54 40, wherein at least some of the plurality of loops are disposed in separate grooves.

57. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 54 40, wherein at least some of the plurality loops are disposed in separate pairs of grooves.

58. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a channel defined by the handle.

59. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a notch defined by the handle.

60. (Canceled)

61. (Original) The medical device of claim 40, wherein the end effector assembly is a pair of opposing biopsy forceps jaws.

62. - 71. (Canceled)

72. (Previously Presented) A medical device comprising:
a handle;
an end effector assembly; and
an elongate, flexible member forming loops and connecting the handle to the end effector assembly,
wherein a first groove defined by the handle houses each of the loops and the end effector assembly.

73. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 72, wherein the first groove has a length greater than the aggregate diameters of the loops.

74. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 72, wherein a width of the first groove is substantially the same as a diameter of the elongate member.

75. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 72, wherein the handle comprises an elongate portion and a spool portion disposed around the elongate portion.

76. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 75, wherein the first groove is defined by the spool portion.
77. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 75, wherein the spool portion comprises a proximal portion and a distal portion connected by a central portion.
78. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 77, wherein the first groove is defined by the proximal portion.
79. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 77, wherein the first groove is defined by the distal portion.
80. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 77, wherein the first groove is defined by the central portion.
81. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 77, wherein the first groove is defined by the proximal portion and the central portion.
82. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 77, wherein the first groove extends through the proximal portion, the central portion, and the distal portion.
83. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 72, wherein the handle defines a notch circumferentially adjacent to the first groove and configured to accommodate a portion of the elongate member.

84. (Currently Amended) A medical device comprising:

a handle;

an end effector assembly; and

an elongate, flexible member connecting the handle to the end effector assembly,

wherein the handle defines ~~at least one~~ a groove, wherein the ~~at least one~~ groove accommodates a ~~first portion~~ plurality of loops of the elongate member and a portion of the end effector assembly; and

wherein the handle defines at least one notch circumferentially adjacent to the ~~at least one~~ groove and configured to accommodate a ~~second~~ portion of the elongate member.

85. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 84, wherein the handle comprises an elongate portion and a spool portion disposed around the elongate portion.

86. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 85, wherein the ~~at least one~~ groove is defined by the spool portion.

87. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 85, wherein the at least one notch is defined by the spool portion.

88. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 84, wherein the ~~second~~ portion of the elongate member is disposed in the at least one notch.

89. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 84, wherein the at least one notch has a width substantially the same as a diameter of the elongate member.

90. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 84, wherein the at least one notch has a width narrower than a diameter of the elongate member.

91. (Currently Amended) A medical device comprising:

a handle;

an end effector assembly; and

an elongate, flexible member forming a plurality of loops and connecting the handle to the end effector assembly;

wherein the handle includes a spool portion, the spool portion including a proximal portion and a distal portion connected by a central portion, wherein a first plurality of grooves are arranged along an outer circumference of the proximal portion and a second plurality of grooves are arranged along an outer circumference of the distal portion, wherein the first plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with the second plurality of grooves, wherein each of the grooves of the first plurality of grooves is separated from each other along the outer circumference of the proximal portion, and each of the grooves of the second plurality of grooves is separated from each other along the outer circumference of the distal portion, and ~~at least~~ one of the first and second plurality of grooves houses the plurality of loops.

92. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 91, wherein the at least one of the first and second plurality of grooves houses the end effector assembly.

93. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of grooves is separated from each other along an outer circumference of the proximal portion, and each of the another plurality of grooves is separated from each other along an outer circumference of the distal portion, wherein at least one of the plurality of grooves and the another plurality of grooves houses multiple loops of the elongate member.

94. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein each of the plurality of grooves is separated from each other along an outer circumference of the proximal portion, and each of the another plurality of grooves is separated from each other along an outer circumference of the distal portion, wherein at least one of the plurality of grooves and the another plurality of grooves houses the plurality of loops of the elongate member.

95. (New) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with the another plurality of grooves.

96. (New) The medical device of claim 1, wherein one groove of the plurality of grooves and the another plurality of grooves accommodates multiple loops of the elongate member.

97. (New) The medical device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of grooves and at least one of the another plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with each other and are discontinuous with the central portion.

98. (New) The medical device of claim 40, wherein at least one of the plurality of grooves and at least one of the another plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with each other and are discontinuous with the central portion.

99. (New) The medical device of claim 91, wherein at least one of the first plurality of grooves and at least one of the second plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with each other and are discontinuous with the central portion.

100. (New) The medical device of claim 40, wherein a portion of the end effector assembly is disposed in the groove defined by the handle.